



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Greg Meszaros, Director, Austin Water Utility

DATE: August 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Ratification of Emergency Purchase—Otek Corporation, \$53,002.00

This memo is to inform you that I have recently signed an emergency purchase affidavit for repair parts for the blower system at the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Failure to make this purchase would endanger public health and result in discharge of partially treated wastewater that does not meet the federal and state permit levels.

The blowers provide adequate air to treat the wastewater to ensure that all state and federal permits are met. Recently, the electrical and control systems for the blowers have been operating unreliably and experiencing failures. One failure resulted in a minor permit excursion and a future failure could result in partially treated wastewater being discharged to the river resulting in impacts to public health and fines from the EPA and TCEQ.

A comprehensive replacement of the existing electrical and control system is scheduled to be completed in an upcoming Capital Improvement Project (CIP) project. However, to address the immediate reliability concerns, critical parts were procured through an emergency purchase process. These parts will be usable with the new control system to be built and will ensure reliability of the existing system until the CIP is complete.

Should you have any questions concerning this emergency purchase, please feel free to contact me at 972-0101.

Greg Meszaros, Director
Austin Water Utility

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Perwez Moheet, C.P.A., Deputy Director, Austin Water Utility
Orren West, Treatment Division Manager, Wastewater Treatment
Byron Johnson, Purchasing Officer